

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings of claims.

1 – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting the affinity of a folate receptor (FR) autoantibody in a subject, comprising:

- a. obtaining from a subject a biological sample suspected of comprising a FR autoantibody;
- b. providing an affinity matrix comprising apoFR[ ];
- c. acidifying the biological sample;
- d. removing any unbound folic acid from the biological sample;
- e. contacting the affinity matrix with the biological sample under conditions suitable for forming an autoantibody-apoFR complex;
- f. dissociating and removing from the affinity matrix any apoFR-bound autoantibody; [and]

g. measuring the autoantibody's affinity for apoFR; and

h. determining whether or not the dissociated autoantibody that was removed from the affinity matrix has an effect on folate uptake,

wherein a value of about  $10^{10}$  L/mole for an autoantibody's affinity for apoFR indicates a high affinity and a value of about  $10^6$  L/mole for an autoantibody's affinity for apoFR indicates a low affinity.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the affinity matrix comprising apoFR, is a cell membrane from a mammalian cell or tissue that produces apoFR.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the cell or tissue is a human cell or tissue.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the cell or tissue is placental.
29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the cell is a cultured ED27 cell or a cultured KB cell.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the affinity matrix comprises apoFR covalently coupled to the affinity matrix.
31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the biological sample is the subject's serum.
32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the biological sample is an extract of the subject's cell or tissue.
33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein determining the effect of the dissociated autoantibody on folate uptake in cells expressing FR comprises comparing the uptake of labeled folate in the presence and absence of the dissociated autoantibody.
34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the effect of the dissociated autoantibody on folate uptake is determined in ED27 cells or KB cells.
- 35- 45. (Canceled)